वडोदरा रेल डिवीज़न में सुविधाएं

449. **श्री अनंतराव देवशंकर दवे:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या वडोदरा रेल डिवीज़न के क्षेत्राधिकार के अंतर्गत आने वाले रेलवे स्टेशनों पर यात्रियों के लिए उपयुक्त सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करायी गयी हैं;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए गये हैं/उठाने का विचार है;

(ग) वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान उक्त रेल डिवीज़न के क्षेत्राधिकार के अंतर्गत आने वाले रेलवे स्टेशनों पर यात्रियों के लिए सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कितनी धनराशि स्वीकृत की गई है; और

(घ) रेल प्रशासन द्वारा वडोदरा रेल डिवीज़न के अंतर्गत निकट भविष्य में उपलब्ध करायी जाने वाली सुविधाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जी हां।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) 186.44 लाख रुपए।

(घ) स्टेशनों पर यातायात के घनत्व को देखते हुए प्लेटफार्म शेडों की व्यवस्था/विस्तार, प्लेटफार्म सतह/परिपथन क्षेत्र में सुधार करना, बैंचों आदि की व्यवस्था करना जैसे विभिन्न कार्यों को विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर शुरू किए जाने का प्रस्ताव किया जाता है।

Train accidents due to poor quality of Steel

450. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents took place in 1996-97 due to poor quality of steel in railway tracks; and

(b) what steps have been taken to improve the quality?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Three train accidents took place in 1996-97 due to poor quality of steel (rail).

(b) Regular meetings have been held by the Railways with Secretary (Steel) Bhilai Steel Plant to decide the course of action to improve the quality of rails produced at Bhilai Steel Plant with a view to minimise premature failure of rails and train accidents caused due to manufacturing defects in rails.

Following actions have already been initiated in this regard at Bhilai Steel Plant:

(i) *Internal quality checks* at various production stages of rail have been augmented.

(ii) Old & worn out stands of Rail Mill have been changed to improve dimensional tolerances.

(iii) New Bi-planer Machine has been commissioned to derive its benefits in respect of cold straightening of rails.

(iv) To detect internal defects of rails during manufacturing stage, device of "on-line ultrasonic testing of rails" will be commissioned by March, 1998.

(v) To reduce Hydrogen content in liquid steel, new process of slow cooling of blooms has recently been introduced and as a long term measure Vacuum Degassing Plant will be provided by May, 1999.

Introduction of "Tatkal" Berth Scheme

451. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has launched a tatkal berth plan in a limited number of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to cover all the Super Fast and Express trains under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have agreed in principle to introduce 'Tatkal' scheme for reservation in one train as an experimental measure. The modalities are